

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 have been amended to place them in proper U.S. format, and to improve readability. The recitation, in lines 9-10 of claim 4, of determining “whether a set value is contained in the data package” rather than “whether the data package is complete” is clearly supported by lines 7-8 on page 5 of the specification as originally filed. This change was made to avoid confusion with the prior recitation in claim 4 of searching for a “complete” data package.

Because the changes are all formal in nature and/or supported by the original specification, it is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the claims do not involve “new matter.”

The rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,012,084 (Fielding) is respectfully traversed on the grounds that the Fielding patent neither discloses nor suggests a communication process for enabling a server end to communication with an SUV in which, (i) **after** initialization of a communication port connected to the server end and the SUV, and (ii) **before** data is transmitted through a predetermined transmission module:

- threads and an associated interrupt program are created in the server end **and** the SUV respectively;
- when data has been received, the data is stored in an embedded buffer in the server end or SUV until a **complete** data package is stored in the buffer;

The purpose of the invention is to enable communications between a server end and devices on an assembly line (the SUV or system under verification) so that the devices can be tested using communication ports included therein, without the need to set up a network adapter. In other words, the invention seeks to provide a method of serial communications between the

server end and the SUV. To do this, the invention eliminates the conventional network communications protocol, which involves verifying and processing of data as it is received, in favor of a protocol in which the data is instead sent directly, via serial communications, to a buffer, and only verified and processed after the data package is **complete**, based on a header included in the complete data package that provides information on the data type.

In contrast, the Fielding patent is directed to a multiple protocol networking services architecture, in which communications on the network are monitored by a “monitoring means” that provides routing independently of the particular protocol being used for internode communications, so that one set of nodes on the network could communicate using an IP protocol while one of the nodes and yet another node could communicate by synchronous polling. **This has nothing to do with the claimed invention, which does not seek to enable multiple-protocol communications.** Instead, the claimed invention simply seeks to find a way to use serial communications to transfer data packages that would otherwise require a network communications protocol and network adapter. The “protocol” used by the claimed invention is, in its broadest form, a protocol in which data is transferred serially, and then verified and processed only after a **complete** package has been received. The “protocol” includes, as recited in various dependent claims, verification of initialization and thread creation, creating an interrupt program based on a thread in the server end, checking a set value of the data package, and so forth, but the key feature is that the data package is buffered until a **complete** package has been received.

The Fielding patent does not disclose or suggest such complete package buffering. Col. 14, lines 4-16 of the Fielding patent, which is cited by the Examiner as teaching the step of storing received data in a buffer, mentions **nothing** about sending the data package for clean-up only after a **complete** data package has been received, as recited in step (d) of claim 1, much less the procedure for determining whether a complete package has been received as recited in claim 4. Instead, this passage concerns routing, *i.e.*, keeping track of all system ports assigned to a node, and storage of information in a shared memory segment for that purpose.

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Because the Fielding patent fails to disclose or suggest “*(d) storing the received data in a predetermined buffer in the data receiving module in the other one of the server end and the SUV and only sending the data from the data receiving module to a cleaning module when a complete data package has been stored,*” as recited in claim 1, or numerous features recited in the dependent claims, the rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 USC §102(e) is believed to be improper and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Having thus overcome each of the rejections made in the Official Action, withdrawal of the rejections and expedited passage of the application to issue is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bj' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

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